

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2141
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
PROMOTION OF TOURISM
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that Tourism Industry is one of the major source of revenue and plan to regenerate tourism as a viable activity and a revenue earner for both public and private sectors;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to identify more tourist spots in the country and promote them abroad through their tourist offices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b): According to a World Tourism Organisation Report, tourism is one of the five top export categories for 83 percent of the countries and the main source of foreign currency for at least 38 percent of them. International tourism receipts and international fare receipts account for roughly 8 percent of the total export earnings on goods and services world wide and is the highest among all international trade categories.

As far as India is concerned, a new Tourism Policy has been formulated which broadly aims to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation and economic development.

(c) and (d): During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country annually and develop the facilities in these circuits. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:-

- i) Buddhist Circuit: Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.
 - ii) Himalayan Circuit: Route I – Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh. Route II – Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.
 - iii) Central Circuit- (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho- Jhansi- Bhopal- Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas- Bhimbetka-Panchamari-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).
 - iv) Western Circuit – (Konkan Riviera circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (mandva) – Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Singdhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.
 - v) Southern Circuit – (Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom- (Backwater) – Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum(Kovalam).
- Eco-Tourism Circuit: Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga- Tezpur- Bhalakpung- Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) – Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

In addition to the above, development of tourism 'Hubs' has also been initiated in which elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, efficient and effective management and healthy environment are synthesised.